THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Wait a minute. Let him first correct the point and then you can raise your point of order or point of disorder... (*Interruptions*)... Just a minute. Let me switch on the light, at least. I cannot see anything... (*Interruptions*)... Let the Minister speak first... (*Interruptions*)...

अभी उनको बोलने दीजिए, फिर पोइंट आफ आर्डर आएगा (व्यवधान) उनको बोलने तो दीजिए

Let him say something ...(*Interruptions*).

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**Statement by Minister correcting the reply given by him in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd February, 1993 on the Passports (Amendment) Bill, 1993**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : Madam, I had in my response to the hon. Members during the Rajya Sabha debate on the Passport (Amendment) Bill, 1993 on 23rd February, 1993 mentioned in response to a question from hon. Member Shrimati Kamla Sinha that the time between the date of receiving the application and the issue of passport would be one month. I would like to clarify that all passports are issued on first-come-first-served basis except for specific categories for out-of-turn priority issue of passports. In the first-come-first-served basis if an applicant's turn has come and the police report has not been received despite a lapse of four weeks when it was requested from the police authorities, the passport of the applicant will be issued. This, however, does not mean that each and every passport will be issued within one month. The actual time taken to issue the passport would depend upon the work-load at different passport offices. But if an applicant's turn comes and the police report has not been received despite the lapse of four weeks from the date when it was requested the applicant would get his passport. I had also mentioned earlier that passports were issued for three years. This was an inadvertant slip. I would like to say, earlier passports were issued for five years and now we are issuing passports for 10 years... (*interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is clear now... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Madam... (*interruptions*)...You may please recall your ruling when we had raised a point of order in the matter of correcting answers to questions. You said that normally the answers to unstarred questions are corrected... (*interruptions*)....

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : (Bihar) : Madam, the Minister has taken my name and I would also like to speak... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Madam, now this is done every day. Daily one reply or the other is corrected. This is the first time at least, during my 12 years' tenure in the Rajya Sabha that I have come across—this is the first time—a Minister correcting his reply to the debate on a Bill... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan) : He is correcting his own reply.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He is correcting his reply to the debate on a Bill... (*interruptions*)... The debate had taken place on 23rd February. It betrays how ill-equipped a Minister comes while he pilots a Bill and replies to the debate... (*interruptions*)....

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : This is taking the Parliament casually ... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : The Parliament is taken for a ride. I would request the Deputy Chairman, who has also been here for as many as 12 years as I am here, at least, you should pass a remark or make an observation which should go on record that Ministers should not come so ill-equipped while piloting a Bill and replying to a discussion on that Bill... (*interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I would like to say to your grievance, your complaint or whatever it may be, that there should not be such happenings. It should not take place. Now, before this it was a statement correcting an answer to which I had made my observation that the Ministers should be careful while preparing their answers. Mostly these are unstarred questions. Now, as regards this, I feel that you should be happy that the Minister came forward and accepted that he made a

mistake. It is quite possible that other people didn't even realise it and you too didn't realise it. At least he is coming and saying... (*interruptions*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Madam.. (*Interruptions*).

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त) : डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहिबा, आपकी बात काबिले दाद है ।

شری سکندر بخت :۔ ڈپٹی چیرمین صاحبہ، آپ کی بات قابلِ داد ہے ۔

उपसभापति : आदमी की जबान है, स्लिप हो गई होगी ... (**व्यवधान**)

He missed it. We should be happy that at least he is admitting it. So, instead of putting him in a corner, you must say, "Please don't do it again and we are happy that at least you corrected it."

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Madam, I was reading from a paper and it was a typing mistake. Instead of five years, it was typed as three and I have corrected it now.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Madam, I want to make a submission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, regarding that matter of correction, I only request the hon. Minister that corrections to Unstarred Questions should be taken seriously because they are happening every day. So, please take care of it because they are not typing errors. I agree that it could have been a typing error and in the process you raised ...(*Interruptions*) That is all right...(*Interruptions*) Not on this issue. Let us close this issue....(*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar) : Madam, I can't shout...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please let me allow Kamlaji.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : I want to say few words on a very important issue....(*Interruptions*).

†[ ]Transliteration in Arabic Script.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now that issue is over...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL (Uttar Pradesh) : I want to raise a different issue. I have already given you in writing because I don't want to shout.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please, if you look into the list of business, we have 19 items to finish today within a limited time...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : I will just take two minutes....(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Okay, Mr. Desai, I will permit you...(*Interruptions*). Will you please take your seat?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Madam

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I can understand your problem because I am also going through the same trouble in my throat. So, you can speak.

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## RE : NEED TO IMPROVE MILK SYSTEM ETC. IN THE HOUSE.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Madam, I would like to raise a very important issue regarding the back-benchers of this House. We sit at the back benches and the mikes are in the front. So, we have to shout whenever we want to catch your ears to say something in this House. So, the problem is that we can't ...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : With that mike, they will catch my ears also.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Sometimes, to make our points, we have to go to the front and then you shout at us to go back to our seats because we are not allowed to speak from the front seats. If you look at the last three benches, there is no mike. So, one has to shout at the top of his voice. What will be the result ? Madam, if we go on shouting, we all of us, the back-benchers, will develop throat cancer and hearing our voices, you will develop ear cancer. So, that is dangerous for you also, Madam. So, I would appeal to you that the mikes should be fitted even at the back-benches. And we have come across another problem, that is, regarding the recording part of it. It has been found